MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
NOVEMBER 21, 1961

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 9:00 a.m., with David E. Finley, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: David E. Finley
Peter Hurd
Douglas W. Orr
William G. Perry
Michael Rapuano
Ralph Walker

L. R. Wilson, Secretary
C. H. Atherton, Asst. Secretary
C. L. Martin, Counsel
Susan E. Bennett, Admin. Secretary
Gilbert E. Halasz, Recorder

I. Administration

a. Date of Next Meeting

The members decided to schedule the December meeting on Wednesday, December 20th, at 9:30 a.m., with an executive session on Tuesday, December 19, at 2:00 p.m.

The dates for the January and February meetings were tentatively set as January 16 and 17, and February 20 and 21.

b. Approval of Minutes of the October 1961 Meeting

The Secretary reported that drafts of the minutes of the meeting held on October 17 and 18 had been circulated to the members by mail.

The Chairman pointed out that the third sentence in the final paragraph of the October 18th minutes concerning the Commission's recommendation regarding the proposed architectural and landscape treatment of the E Street expressway was in error and should be corrected to read: "It was concluded that the importance of this area justified recommending that the area between 23d Street and 20th Street be covered, etc." The minutes were approved with this correction.

c. Budget Estimate - Fiscal Year 1963, Approval by the Bureau of the Budget

The Chairman reported that he and members of the staff had attended a hearing at the Bureau of the Budget on the Commission's request for an appropriation of $80,000 for Fiscal Year 1963. This sum, if approved

by Congress, would constitute a $10,000 increase in the Commission's budget over Fiscal Year 1962 and would include funds to hire a new employee and increases in salary for some of the members of the staff.

The Chairman also reported that the Bureau of the Budget had approved the request for the additional $10,000.

d. White House Historical Association - Formation

The Chairman announced that he had been appointed Chairman of a non-profit corporation to be known as the White House Historical Association. This association was created for the purpose of educating the public on history of the White House. The association will also aid in the restoration of furniture in the White House. The five Directors of the Association are the Director of the National Gallery of Art, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the Director of the National Park Service, the Superintendent of the National Capital Parks, and the Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts. A meeting of the Association was held in the offices of the Commission on November 20th. EXHIBIT A

e. Inner Loop Freeway - Report of Chairman's Statement at National Capital Planning Commission Meeting

The Chairman reported that he and Mr. Walker had attended a meeting of the National Capital Planning Commission on November 9 at which there was a general discussion of the necessity for completion of the Inner Loop System. He readto the members a prepared statement which he delivered at the meeting. In the statement the Chairman urged that the plans for further construction of the Inner Loop System be delayed for one year to await the results of a mass transit study now being made by the Metropolitan Mass Transportation Agency established by Congress in 1960. EXHIBIT B Mr. Walker reported that he had affirmed the position taken by the Chairman and added some remarks of his own. Mr. Walker's remarks appear as EXHIBIT C.

After some discussion a motion was approved affirming the statement made by the Chairman at the meeting of November 9th as representing the unanimous views of all members of the Commission of Fine Arts. A proposed press release announcing the action taken by the Commission was read and approved as drafted.

f. Lafayette Square - Report of Conference at Boston on November 8,1961

Mr. Orr and Mr. Walker reported upon a conference with representatives of the two architectural firms held in Boston on November 8 concerning plans for the proposed Courts and Executive Office Buildings on the east and west sides of Lafayette Square. Mr. Orr and Mr. Walker represented the Commission of Fine Arts and Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director,

Architectural and Structural Division, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration represented the General Services Administration.

At the meeting Mr. J. P. Carlhian of Shepley, Bullfinch, Richardson and Abbott, reviewed all the elevation drawings of the buildings on the east and west sides of the Square and described the President's interest in the project. He also presented a series of new drawings representing recent studies of the buildings. These drawings embodied new concepts for the massing of the buildings on the west side and new designs for the Courts Building on Madison Place. A chronological history of the development of Executive Office buildings and photographs of models, sketches, and elevation drawings of all buildings involved was presented to Mr. Orr, Mr. Walker and Mr. Snyder. This report was prepared by the joint venture architects.

Mr. Walker and Mr. Orr reported that they were very impressed with the presentation made at the meeting and had requested the architects to make the same presentation before the full Commission at the November meeting. They also recommended that if possible the President should meet the architects so that he could see the same presentation in order to better understand the problems involved.

The Chairman reported that he had written to the President on October 5th requesting that all of the members of the Commission have the pleasure of meeting him in October and discussing the problems involved in designing the buildings on Lafayette Square. EXHIBIT D. He read a letter received from Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell, Special Assistant to the President, acknowledging the Chairman's letter and expressing regret that a meeting with the President could not be arranged in October because of the President's heavy schedule. Mr. O'Donnell suggested that a meeting might be arranged early in December. EXHIBIT E. The Chairman said that he had written to Mr. O'Donnell telling him that he hoped a meeting could be arranged at that time.

Mr. Walker suggested that a report of the conference prepared by Mr. Snyder was a good account of the meeting and could be incorporated in the Commission's files on this project. A copy of Mr. Snyder's report appears in these minutes as EXHIBIT F.

The Commission took no action pending a conference with the joint venture architects later in the day. Mr. Perry excused himself from the meeting during the discussion of the November conference in Boston concerning Lafayette Square.

II. Submissions-Reviews-Interviews

1. The White House

a. Interdepartmental Committee on Federal Office Space - Request for Report

The Secretary called to the members' attention a memorandum

from Mr. Frederick G. Dutton, assistant to the President, dated October 20, 1961, in which the Commission was requested to give its views on an enclosed draft of a report to the President by the Ad Hoc Committee on Federal Office Space headed by Secretary of Labor Goldberg. The memorandum and enclosed draft report are EXHIBITS G and H respectively. Attention was called to a reference in Mr. Dutton's memorandum to a plan prepared by an outside group of architects for the development of the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue as a new Federal Mall, and to the fact that Secretary Goldberg's office will soon present the plan to the Commission for its recommendations.

The members then discussed a draft report to Mr. Dutton which the Chairman and the Staff had prepared. EXHIBIT I

Several suggestions were made for changes and additions to the draft report. The Chairman recommended that the members make notations of the changes they suggested upon their copies of the report. A new letter was prepared encorporating the members suggestions and sent out. EXHIBIT J

b. E Street Expressway - Request for Report

The Chairman read a memorandum, dated October 17, 1961, from Mr. Frederick G. Dutton, Special Assistant to the President, requesting a report to the White House of the Commission's recommendations on the proposed E Street Expressway. EXHIBIT K. He then read the reply he had prepared and sent to Mr. Dutton and asked if there were any additional statements which the members believed should be added. The members agreed that the Chairman's reply fully stated their views and that they had nothing further to add. The Chairman's letter to Mr. Dutton is EXHIBIT L.

The Chairman reported that he had delivered a similar statement setting forth the Commission's recommendations on the E Street Expressway at a meeting of the National Capital Planning Commission on November 9th.

Introduction of Visitors

The Chairman and members welcomed Mrs. James H. Rowe, Jr., recently appointed Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission, and Mr. Walter C. Louchheim, appointed as a member of the Commission. Mrs. Rowe and Mr. Louchheim remained for the discussion of several items on the agenda.

2. National Capital Planning Commission

George Washington Memorial Parkway-Land Acquisitions-Confirmation

The Secretary reported that the National Capital Planning Commission

had approved the acquisition of the following list of lands located in the vicinity of the approaches to the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge located in Prince Georges County, Maryland as a part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway:

1. The land shown on National Capital Planning Commission Plan File No. 105.32-599 belonging to the Potomac Sand and Gravel Col.

2. The land belonging to William T. Sellner shown on NCPC Plan File No. 105.32-600.

3. The land belonging to Fred N. Maloop shown on NCPC Plan File No. 105.32-601.

4. The land belonging to Gatewood S. Bennett shown on NCPC Plan File No. 501.32-602.

5. The land belonging to John T. Kennedy shown on NCPC Plan File No. 501.32-603.

6. Part of Lot 43, Block C, Sec. 3, Forest Heights, as shown on NCPC Plan File No. 105.32-604.

7. Part of Lot 44, Block C, Sec. 3, Forest Heights, as shown on NCPC Plan File No. 105.32-605.

8. The land belonging to the Smoot Sand and Gravel Corporation as shown on NCPC Plan File No. 105.32-606.

The members approved the acquisition of these lands.

3. District of Columbia Government

a. Zoning Commission

Watergate Development (Squares 2,3,7,8,9 and 18)-Status

Counsel reported that he had attended a hearing before the District of Columbia Zoning Commission on October 25, 1961 on a petition to rezone to Special Purpose certain lots which would constitute the site of the proposed Watergate Development. At the hearing Counsel read a prepared statement signed by the Chairman setting forth the Commission of Fine Arts' request that the rezoning be postponed.(See EXHIBIT J of the minutes of the meeting of October 17, 1961.) He also read the Commission's report to the District of Columbia Department of Licenses and Inspections dated October 2, 1961. (EXHIBIT D, minutes of September 20, 1961.)

Following the hearing the Zoning Commission decided to take no action on the application for the Zoning change and wrote to the National Capital Planning Commission requesting its recommendations.

The matter was considered at the Planning Commission meeting on November 9th. The matter was discussed at some length, but the members reached no conclusions. The members voted to refer the problem to the Executive and Zoning Committees with the direction that those committees prepare a report to the Commission for discussion at the meeting on December 7th.

The Assistant Secretary reported that he had secured a map of the street system in the area and from this map had calculated that the total amount of open space in the development that would be represented by street closings was 153,460 square feet. This area represents about 35% of the total area in the site. He also reported that under District of Columbia law the developer would be required to preserve about 225,460 square feet as open area, and that according to the site development plan shown to the Commission the developers planned to preserve about 236,300 sq. ft. of open area, or approximately 5% more than the minimum requirement.

After hearing the Assistant Secretary's report the members were unanimous in their belief that the City was being asked to give very valuable land in a most important location without adequate compensation in return. It was pointed out that some of the land involved in the proposed street closings did not belong to the District of Columbia,but was under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

A resolution was approved recommending that the land involved be acquired by the District of Columbia and transferred to the National Park Service for use as parkland or in connection with the proposed National Cultural Center. They believed that acquisition of this land would be a partial compensation for the many acres of park land appropriated by the District Department of Highways and Traffic for highway purposes.

The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter setting forth the Commission's recommendation. EXHIBIT M

Rezoning Square 221, 224 and 225, 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Counsel reported that he had appeared before the District of Columbia Zoning Commission at a hearing on November 9, 1961 and delivered a prepared statement opposing a proposal to change from C-3-B to C-4 the designation of certain lots facing the Treasury Department

building at 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. This area is within jurisdiction of the Shipstead-Luce Act. EXHIBIT N. It developed at the hearing that the zoning change had been requested by Mr. Morris Cafritz, the owner of the Keith Theater Building, and by officers of the Riggs Bank, the American Security Bank and the Washington Hotel Corporation whose organizations also wish to make changes in their buildings not permitted under the existing zoning restrictions.

The principal benefits which the applicants sought in applying for the change were the greater density of occupancy permitted in C-4 zones, and relief from the off-street parking requirements imposed in C-3-B zones. However, Mr. Cafritz's attorney indicated that it was probable that Mr. Cafrize would seek permission to build a high-rise office building on the site of the Keith buildings.

Counsel pointed out that under the District Commissioner's schedule of Building Heights, issued pursuant to the Act of June 1, 1910, the lots involved were restricted to buildings of no more than 80 feet in height. This means that the owners must request the District Commissioners to change the schedule of building heights if they wish to erect higher buildings on their lots.

Counsel reported that the Zoning Commission had granted the application for the zoning change, but no request for a change in the Schedule of Building Heights had been filed as of the time of the meeting.

After some discussion the Commission resolved to continue opposition to raising the height limitation in this area.

b. Department of Licenses and Inspections

Shipstead-Luce Act - Report of Actions Taken on Applications for Permit

The Assistant Secretary reported the action taken, after the recommendations of the Shipstead-Luce Panel of Architects, on the Shipstead-Luce Applications forwarded for review by the District of Columbia Department of Licenses and Inspections since November 13, 1961. This report was dated November 21, 1961 and comprised Appendix 1 of the Order of Business. The Commission confirmed the action taken in each instance of the favorable recommendations of the Shipstead-Luce Panel and of the unfavorable recommendations in the following cases:

S.L. 2454	1203 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.	1203 Restaurant
S.L. 2455	503 13th Street, N.W.	Neptune Restaurant
S.L. 2459	1415 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.	Virginia Hotel Co.

Old Georgetown Act (Public Law 808, 81st Congress)

Report of Actions Taken on Applications for Permit

The Assistant Secretary reported the actions prepared after the recommendations of the Old Georgetown Panel of Architects, on the applications forwarded for review by the Department of Licenses and Inspections, District of Columbia, since November 17, 1961. This report was dated November 21, 1961 and comprised Appendix 2 of the Order of Business. The Commission confirmed the action taken in each instance of the favorable recommendations of the Old Georgetown Panel and of the unfavorable recommendations in the following cases:

O.G. 3036	1226 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.	Bryon Motion Pictures, Inc.
O.G. 3046	1411 29th Street, N.W.	Ernest B. Dane III
O.G. 3053	1310 27th Street, N.W.	Mrs. R. Spaatz
O.G. 3054	3233 N. Street, N.W.	Odd Fellows Home Assn, Inc.

Potomac River Freeway - Discussion

The members were told that on the following day the District Commissioners would hold a hearing on the proposed Potomac River Freeway, a six-lane roadway running from 31st Street, N.W. to and including the proposed Three Sisters Bridge near Glover-Archbold Park.

The members were asked if they wished to prepare a statement to be read at the hearing. The Secretary reported that he had been told that the District of Columbia Department of Highways and Traffic would send drawings showing the profile of the freeway but that these drawings had not been received at the time the item was reached for discussion.

After some discussion it was decided that the Commission could not reach any conclusions on such a complex problem without studying detailed drawings of the topography and the proposed plans prepared by the Highway Department. Since the necessary information had not been made available to the Commission the members decided to postpone consideration of the matter to a future time.

4. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Capital Parks

a. Review of Projects in 1963 Fiscal Year Budget - Status

The Chairman reported that he and members of the staff had met with Mr. T. Sutton Jett, Superintendent, and other representatives

of National Capital Parks, to discuss a list of various projects in the Washington area which the National Capital Parks proposes to include in its budget request for Fiscal Year 1963. This list and a request for comments had been circulated to members prior to the October meeting but replies had not been received in time to include a conference with Park Service representatives on the agenda.

The Chairman reported that Mr. Jett and his staff had explained in detail each of the items on the list and that he was of the opinion that all of the projects seemed reasonable and should be approved.

After some discussion the Commission voted to approve the list as presented. EXHIBIT N

b. Benjamin Rush Statue - Proposed Relocation - Status

The Chairman read a letter, dated October 29, 1961, from Mr. E. T. Scoyen, Acting Director, National Park Service, stating that the Secretary of the Interior had written to the Secretary of the Navy proposing that custody of the statue of Dr. Benjamin Ruth be transferred to the Park Service for reassignment to Dickenson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on a loan basis. EXHIBIT O

The Chairman said that he had written to Mr. Scoyen informing him that his letter would be read to the members of the Commission at its meeting in November. He invited Mr. Scoyen or Mr. Wirth to attend the meeting. However, neither Mr. Scoyen nor Mr. Wirth attended the meeting.

The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Donald De Lue, sculptor and past president of the National Sculpture Society, in which he stated that in his opinion there was no such thing as a "loan" of statues because of the high costs of new foundations, new pedestal settings and transportation which would probably mean that statues sent out of Washington would never be returned. EXHIBIT P

The Chairman then introduced Mr. Paul Manship representing the National Sculpture Society and Mr. Hohn Harbeson, architect and President of the National Academy of Design. These gentlemen stated that their organizations strongly supported the Commission of Fine Arts in its opposition to the removal of statues from Washington. Mr. Manship and Mr. Harbeson's remarks appear as EXHIBITS Q and R.

A draft of a letter to Secretary of Interior Udall restating the Commission's recommendation that the statue be re-erected in the park at 18th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. was approved without change. EXHIBIT S

Thereafter, at 12:00 noon, the meeting was recessed for lunch. At 2:00 p.m. the members met in executive session. Mr. Perry abxented himself from the discussion of the buildings on Lafayette Square.

5. General Services Administration

Public Buildings Service

a. Court of Claims Building, Madison Place, N.W.

b. Federal Office Building No. 7, Jackson Place, N.W.

The Commission conferred with Mr. Robert Dean, architect of Perry, Shaw, Hepburn and Dean, Mr. Jean Paul Carlhian of Shepley, Bullfinch, Richardson and Abbott, and Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Architectural and Structural Division, Public Buildings Service, on the design of the new Courts building and Federal Office Buildings No. 7 to be erected on the east and west sides of Lafayette Square. Mr. Sam Broadbent and Mr. J. Speigel attended the meeting as representatives of the Bureau of the Budget.

Mr. Dean opened the discussion by stating that at a meeting in Boston, on November 9, Mr. Orr and Mr. Walker, the architect members of the Commission and the members of the joint venture of architects had reached accord on design concepts for the buildings on both sides of the Square and upon a proposed change in the program involving the massing of the buildings on the West side. He then asked Mr. Carlhian to explain the new proposals.

Mr. Carlhian began by noting that the problems involved in the program had been resolved to the question of the massing of the buildings on the west side of the Square and to the question of the general design of all the buildings. He explained in chronological order the major events which had taken place in the past two years that have brought about changes in the program and in the direction of the studies undertaken by the architects of the joint venture. All of the sketch studies were displayed and explained in relation to the changes in the program, the recommendations of the Commission of Fine Arts, the President's wishes and so forth.

After reviewing the history of the design program Mr. Carlhian showed a number of new studies and models of the Courts building along Madison Place. He explained that the new studies were an attempt to correct objections to the earlier designs that had been criticized because the buildings contained too large an amount of glass and were generally undistinguished.

The members were of the opinion that the new submissions appeared to more closely achieve the qualities of design which they believe the courts buildings ought to have in such an important location. In particular the members favoredthe design as shown in Model M-14 and drawing D-14 east.

Mr. Carlhian then discussed the question of the massing of the Executive Office building on the west side of the Square. He pointed out that originally it was proposed that a high rise building be placed along 17th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and H Street. To the east of this building, and connected to it, it was proposed that a three or four story rectangular building be placed in the center of the block, set back from Jackson Place. This site plan was opposed by the National Capital Planning Commission because of its effect upon Pennsylvania Avenue. To meet the objections of the National Capital Planning Commission it was decided to retain the old Court of Claims building and to reduce the size of the high rise building so that it would terminate at the north end of that building 160' north of Pennsylvania Avenue. At the same time it was decided to retain the two red brick houses on the southeast corner of the block. Subsequent to this change in the program the architects were informed that the President wished them to prepare studies of a brick building, three or four stories in height, with a fenestration similar to the Decatur House and the Civil War building, to be located along Jackson Place. It was noted that the studies made pursuant to the President's request had been shown to the Commission at its meeting on September 19th and that the members had not approved any of the designs submitted.

On the basis of a thorough study of the problem, Mr. Carlhian said, the architects now recommend that the program be changed to provide for the demolition of the Old Court of Claims building. He then demonstrated on a large scale model the architects' proposal that a high rise building be constructed along 17th Street of such dimensions that a landscape park could be created at the northeast corner of 17th Street and Pennsylvania and at the northern end of the building near H Street. Sketches and models were shown of a rectangular low building in the center of the block, or alternatively, a three or four story building along Jackson Place structurally connected to the high rise building.

After some discussion the following resolution was proposed and adopted, with the Chairman dissenting:

> "Be it resolved, That, the Commission of Fine Arts favors the design of the Courts building on Madison Place, as shown in Model M-4 and Drawing D-14 east, except for details which the architects, themselves, realize need refinement.
>
> Be it further Resolved, That, for the office building facing Jackson Place and 17th Street, the Commission favors the design as shown in Model M-11 and on drawing D-14 west, which feature a light-colored building in the foreground on Jackson Place, and a darker one on 17th Street.

Be it further Resolved, That, in order to achieve the best possible site plan and design, the Commission favors the removal of the Old Court of Claims building on the northeast corner of 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, thus leaving the two corners at the ends of the plot on 17th Street as landscaped parks. In general, the mass suggested on the model is, in our opinion, especially good."

Although the Chairman agreed with the other members on the mass and design of the courts building on Madison Place, he stated that he felt obliged to dissent from the motion because he could not agree that the Old Court of Claims Building should be demolished. He said that he believed this building should be retained in order to keep intact the facade of historic government buildings along Pennsylvania Avenue.

The members also agreed that the architects of the joint venture should be given the opportunity to present their designs directly to the President, without intermediaries, and decided to urge that a meeting be arranged with the President for this purpose, as soon as possible.

Thereafter, at 5:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

C. L. Martin

C. L. Martin
Counsel

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
21 November 1961

ORDER OF BUSINESS

AM
9:00 1. CONVENE, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

2. ADMINISTRATION

a. Date of Next Meeting: 20 December 1961
Executive Session: 19 December 1961

b. Approval of Minutes of October 1961 Meeting

c. Budget Estimate - Fiscal Year 1963, Approval by Bureau of the Budget

d. White House Historical Association - Formation

e. Inner Loop Freeway - Report of Chairman's Statement at National Capital Planning Commission meeting

f. Lafayette Square - Report of Conference at Boston, November 8

3. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS-INTERVIEWS

a. The White House

(1) Interdepartmental Committee on Federal Office Space - Request for Report

(2) "E" Street Expressway - Request for Report

b. National Capital Planning Commission

George Washington Memorial Parkway - Land Acquisitions

c. District of Columbia Government

(1) Zoning Commission

(a) Watergate Development (Squares 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 18), Status

(b) Rezoning of 15th Street (Squares 221, 224 and 225) West of Treasury Building - Status

(2) Department of Licenses and Inspections

(a) Shipstead-Luce Act

1. Building Applications, Appendix 1, dated 11/21/61

2. S.L. 2431, 1345 E Street, N.W. - Stone Sample (Granux #5978) for facade of proposed Republic Federal Savings & Loan Association Building

(b) Old Georgetown Act

1. Building Applications, Appendix 2, dated 11/21/61

2. Potomac River Freeway, Discussion

d. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Capital Parks

Review of Projects in 1963 Fiscal Year Budget - Status

OPEN SESSION

11:30 e. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
National Capital Parks

Benjamin Rush Statue, Relocation - Status (Mr. John Harbeson, President, National Academy of Design, Mr. Paul Manship, member, National Sculpture Society)

f. District of Columbia Government
Department of Highways and Traffic

Inner Loop Freeway System - Status Report

RECESS - LUNCH

2:00 pm EXECUTIVE SESSION

g. General Services Administration
Public Buildings Service

(1) Court of Claims Building, Madison Place, N.W., Lafayette Square

(2) Federal Office Building No. 7, Jackson Place, N.W.
Lafayette Square

(Mr. Robert Dean of Perry, Shaw, Hepburn & Dean; Mr. Richardson, Mr. Carlhian and Mr. Voss of Shepley, Bullfinch, Richardson, & Abbott; Mr. J. Rowland Snyder, Director, Architectural and Structural Division, GSA, PBS; Mr. Sam Broadbent, Chief, Commerce & Finance Division, Bureau of the Budget; Mr. J. Speigel, Budget Examiner, Bureau of the Budget)

ADJOURN

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 1961.

WHITE HOUSE GETS CULTURAL SOCIETY

Mrs. Kennedy Credited for Plan to Educate Tourists

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 – When Mrs. John F. Kennedy was a child, she was taken on a visitor's tour of the White House.

A long-delayed result of that trip was announced today--a White House Historical Association designed to increase the nation's knowledge and appreciation of the White House.

The association was incorporated today, with David E. Finley, chairman of the Commission of the Fine Arts, as the chairman of its board of directors. Its efforts will be directed particularly at children, according to Mrs. Kennedy's press secretary, Miss Pamela Turnure.

Miss Turnure said Mrs. Kennedy had been rushed through the White House so swiftly as a child that she had learned almost nothing about it. Nor was she given anything to remind her of the trip or of what she had seen.

Although a record was set this year in the number of visitors taking the White House tour, the only souvenir or educational material available to them is a pamphlet distributed by the National Park Service. The limited number of guides available are unable to give the tourists personal attention.

Plans Several Projects

The new association, stemming from Mrs. Kennedy's recollection of her unsatisfactory tour, will produce booklets, films, slides, photographs and other educational materials.

These materials, Miss Turnure said, will be made available to schools, clubs and individuals, particularly for the education and enjoyment of children.

She said the association would solicit no funds. Instead, it will be self-financed by the sale of the educational materials and by the sale of souvenir postcards to tourists passing through the White House.

The association is a nonprofit corporation chartered in the District of Columbia. Among its directors, in addition to Mr. Finley, are Clark M. Clifford, formerly the special assistant to President Harry S. Truman; John Walker, director of the National Gallery of Art, and T. Sutton Jett, superintendent of National Capitol Parks.

Officers Designated

Mr. Walker will serve as treasurer and Mr. Jett as executive secretary.

The association was incorporated under the authority of an act of Congress passed this year, the primary purpose of which was to emphasize and preserve the museum nature of the principal public rooms of the White House.

Since the Kennedys moved in, the First Lady has been active in refurbishing many of these rooms and in furnishing them with antiques and art objects appropriate to the history and traditions of the White House.

Miss Turnure said most of the material to be produced would be new, to take account of Mrs. Kennedy's changes. Some of the materials, she said, may be available by the first of the year.

EXHIBIT A

Remarks of

David E. Finley

Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts

at the meeting of the

National Capital Planning Commission

Washington, D. C.

9 November 1961

Subject: THE INNER LOOP SYSTEM

EXHIBIT B

The Commission of Fine Arts does not approve the Inner Loop nor does it believe that freeways alone will solve the District's traffic problems. We feel that such a system would not only mar the beauty of Washington as the Nation's Capital but would be destructive of the L'Enfant Plan and its later modifications, which have long been accepted as the basic plan for Washington.

Such a system of inner loops and freeways would accentuate the very problems it is intended to solve. It would encourage motorists, especially those living outside the city, to use their own cars which, as a principal means of transportation, would prove completely impractical if the population of the metropolitan area doubles, as it is expected to do, in the next thirty or forty years. This point of view is becoming more widely recognized by planners and civic authorities as they have seen the havoc created by an outmoded system of open freeways and inner loops so much invogue ten years ago. Los Angeles is an example of what could happen here; and San Francisco has shown how such a situation can be avoided.

It was not until February 1960 that the Commission of Fine Arts received officially a copy of the Transportation Plan made by DeLeuw, Cather, and Company, showing the geometric layouts for the Inner Loop system and approach roads. I wrote immediately, on February 17, 1960, to the then Chairman of the District of Columbia Board of Commissioners, saying that the Commission of Fine Arts did not approve the Inner Loop and that, when we are obliged to advise concerning the design of a bridge or an overpass brought to us as part of that system, we always state that

this does not imply approval of the Inner Loop, itself.

The members of the Commission believe that a rapid transit system or subway is the most effective and least damaging means of providing ingress or egress to those parts of the city where government buildings or commercial interests are located. In a statement before a hearing of the Joint Committee on Metropolitan Problems on November 10, 1959, concerning the Mass Transportation Survey, I said:

"Sufficient emphasis has not been given to finding a special solution of traffic problems which would preserve Washington as the Nation's Capital. The plan for an underground rapid transit system should receive the first consideration. The city is being changed to fit the standard patterns of highway engineers, rather than to conform to the Washington plan so long established."

In proposing modification of certain features of the Transportation Plan, the Commission of Fine Arts recommended concentration on that part of the plan which would provide a rapid transit system, supplemented by adequate and convenient busses; also that future government buildings should be located in various parts of the city and that the land adjacent should be developed for housing. We strongly urged the building of an inter-connecting subway that would bind the units to each other. Such a plan would avoid the necessity of compressing traffic in the center of the city and would, we hope, enhance, rather than injure the appearance of Washington.

At the time those recommendations were made, there was no prospect of funds being available from the Federal Government to finance a rapid transit system.

Today the situation is very different. Congress has passed the National Capital Transportation Act of 1960, creating an agency of the Federal Government for the specific purpose of preparing a basic and comprehensive city and regional transportation plan, including both highways and rapid transit. It also provided for Federal participation in financing the plan. The National Capital Transportation Agency is now actively engaged in the preparation of such a plan. Furthermore, Congress has given a mandate for the evaluation of the entire transportation plan for Washington and the surrounding area. That mandate should be carried out. Mr. Stolzenbach has quite properly asked for a year's moratorium on such parts of the Inner Loop and freeways as are not now under construction, so that his Agency can function as Congress intended it should do.

The special concern of the Commission of Fine Arts is the preservation of the beauty of the city of Washington as the Nation's Capital. It is this beauty which brings to Washington each year millions of visitors from all parts of this country and the world. They come to see the monuments, the museums, the public buildings, the parks and tree-lined streets with their many vistas which add so much to the distinction of the city.

This beauty should not be sacrificed by cutting the city into islands in an effort to meet the traffic needs of local inhabitants or those who live in nearby suburban areas. Indeed, I question our right to mar irretrievably this Capital city, which belongs to all the people of this country, not merely to us who live here or nearby.

I am glad that the National Capital Planning Commission has decided to take a second look at the need for going ahead at this time with segments of the Inner Loop now about to be constructed. If anyone is in doubt as to

the damage that will be done by open, depressed freeways and inner loops, I recommend a visit to 7th and F Streets, Southwest, where a wide gash in the landscape is being cut for the accommodation of eight lanes of traffic.

Decisions are constantly being made on the local level which obliterate plans long accepted and approved. I cite the E Street Freeway as an instance. The Plan of Washington provides for a park extending from Rawlins Park at 18th and E Streets to 23rd Street. The District of Columbia Red Cross Building was erected in reliance on this plan. Suddenly the Highway Department has developed a depressed open-face freeway that will largely destroy this park. At the last meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts, we were shown plans for this freeway, with landscape embellishments by Mrs. Chloethiel Smith. While we admired Mrs. Smith's efforts to improve this situation, we recommended to the Highway Department that the surface of the park be retained by covering the E Street Freeway from 20th to 23rd Streets. With so much Federal money available for highways, we feel that this is a small thing to ask.

The Commission of Fine Arts strongly supports the Planning Commission in its courageous and far-seeing action in re-examining the need for the Inner Loop System. We hope the entire question if inner loops and freeways may be deferred until plans can be made for a rapid transit system adequate for our needs today and in the future. Washington and the country deserve such consideration on our part. Furthermore, the mandate of Congress in the National Capital Transportation Act would seem to make such consideration necessary.

In any future requests of Congress for funds to build the Inner Loop or projected freeways, I suggest that the Highway Department submit a scale model, showing the full extent of the proposed changes, and citing also the number of houses and families to be displaced, the loss in taxable property and the added expense to the city in maintaining these freeways. These are facts which both the Congress and the public have a right to know before they are faced with such vast changes in the city's appearance, accomplished piece-meal.

We must remember that the city of Washington does not belong to us. We did not create it. And we have no right to destroy its beauty. We must preserve and enhance it, not only for ourselves but for future generations who will hold us responsible for what we do today.

Remarks by Ralph Walker at the National Capital Planning Commission Meeting, November 9, 1961

Inner Loop Freeway

Madam Chairman, what I am about to say is merely, I think, expressing a "me, too" attitude of the report of our Chairman, which he has just offered you; but I would like to suggest something else.

The Fine Arts Commission and I am sure the Planning Commission get these things pretty much in a piece-meal manner. We do not get the entire concept, so we are faced with someone showing us a picture like that, saying, "Is that beautiful or is it not?"

I will say right now, it is not.

I don't know what the aesthetics of what Bob Moses calls "chicken guts" are, but it seems to me when you get a good many of these things thrown at you and you say, "How can we improve something as ugly as that," there should have been a model presented to us a long time before anticipating this, so that some corrections could be made.

The amount of engineering cost that has gone into that, in my estimation, as far as the aesthetics are concerned, is absolutely wasted. It could have been much better done; it could have been much more attractive. And probably in some ways one of these intersections could have been eliminated by some more clever man.

I dislike this what we in New York call the Bob Moses technique of getting something thrust at you in small doses, some of them so important; and when they are accomplished or committed for something, an unknown future that hasn't been presented to you at all.

So I would hope with this new basis of the Highway Commission, with their new Art Commission and all that sort of stuff, that they do take into consideration something that is very, very necessary - and that is that a model of this whole throughway should be built in such a way that we can all criticize it at once and forever in its continuity and its finished results.

The other thing that I think very strongly about is that we should cover up as much of this highway as we possibly can.

I know of no real job of throughway freeway that has really improved the value of the properties immediately surrounding it.

Coming here this morning, I came over the Triborough Bridge looking at this cut as I went through, realizing that there hasn't been development of a new piece of property along that thing since it has been constructed, on

EXHIBIT C

each end.

Now the East River Highway did cover and where it covered up the highway, property values were improved and people got the advantage of actually looking out over the highway to the river.

This type of thing suggests the Seine in Paris, but there are no fishermen along the banks; there are no lovely craft moving up and down; just a steady stream of traffic. It's a trench - rather a nasty trench - in size.

And when the leaves fall off those beautifully rendered trees, it will be kind of hard to swallow.

I do think - I agree with our Chairman - that the E Street affair should be covered completely. Here you have the State Department on one side, the Red Cross on the other, another important health building coming along in connection with South America. What do you do? Present them with a ditch between them, instead of this fine park?

I think a little really intelligent planning - and I am interested in design, not necessarily just the plan - I think the whole thing has got to be coordinated into something that finally means an aesthetic value to the city and not just another scar.

Thank you, Madam Chairman.

5 October 1961

Dear Mr. President:

Some of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts have not had the pleasure of meeting you and would like very much to have the opportunity of paying their respects. They would also like to discuss the problems arising in connection with the erection of buildings on the east and west sides of Lafayette Square. They want to make sure that they understand your own views in this matter and to discuss theirs with you.

I know how great is the pressure of other matters at this time, and hesitate to make a request for an appointment. However, the members of the Commission have expressed the hope you might find it possible to receive them, perhaps during the time when they are meeting here on the afternoon of October 17th or at any time during the 18th. If these dates are not possible, would you be kind enough to send me word as to a date which might be convenient, and with many thanks for your consideration in this matter, I am

Faithfully yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

1955

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 7, 1961

Dear Mr. Finley:

I am writing with reference to your letter to the President asking if it would be possible for the Members of the Commission of Fine Arts to come in to see him when they met here recently, not only to pay their respects but also to discuss with him the problems arising in connection with the erection of buildings on the east and west sides of Lafayette Square.

We are very sorry this could not be considered in view of the President's heavy schedule. It is suggested, however, that you get in touch with me again in this regard early in December.

With the best wishes of the President to you, I am

Sincerely,

Kenneth O'Donnell

Special Assistant to the President

Mr. David E. Finley
Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

Assistant Commissioner
for Design and Construction

November 13, 1961

In reply refer to: PCD

Director, Design Division

Report of design conference on Federal Office Bldg. No. 7, Project No. 49904 and U.S. Court of Claims, Project No. 49912

In accordance with Authorization PBS 62-159, I traveled to Boston and represented GSA at the subject conference which began at 9:15 a.m. and continued through lunhh until 2:00 p.m. on November 8, 1961, at the joint venture office at One Court Street.

Present at the meeting were Messrs. Perry, Shaw, Hepburn, Dean, Shepley, Richardson and Carlhian of the joint venture and Messrs. Orr and Walker of the Commission of Fine Arts

Mr. Carlhian reviewed all elevation schemes for the west side and east side since and including presentations made at the June '61 meeting of the Fine Arts Commission. He explained in some detail the inception of the President's interest in July and the architects' effort to satisfy that interest during August and September.

A series of four new studies for the Courts Building, elevations and models, was shown next. They are identified by numbers on back of the attached Polaroid photographs made on the same day. No. 4, with strong vertical piers stopping short of the main cornice was the architects' recommended scheme. Messrs. Walker and Orr expressed considerable enthusiasm for this scheme.

Since the discussions of these new elevations mentioned granites extending over the whole building, I called attention to the current deficit and cautioned them to bear it in mind in seeking combinations of materials.

On the west side, a new argument was presented, summed up in Schemes A and B. Scheme "A", in its ideal form, returns to a square central building facing Jackson Place and the removal of the Old Corcoran and symmetrical placement of the 17th Street building with open landscaped plot at both ends. (I called attention to exposure of Grange brick face). Scheme "B" generally represents the President's requested long, low, semi-traditional brick building on Jackson Place with a return of the high building to 17th Street but retaining the old Corcoran.

Promotion of Scheme "A" would require that the President withdraw his request that the old Corcoran be preserved and also forego his request for the long brick traditional-type building on Jackson Place.

EXHIBIT E

Messrs. Walker and Orr agreed with the architectw' preference for Scheme "A" and abandonement of old Corcoran and retnrn to formal square office building.

I pointed out the difficulties inherent in an attempt to get a change in the President's expressed wishes while admitting validity of Scheme "A". We discussed ways and means of getting to the President, such as meeting with Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Walton together with the Fine Arts.

Mr. Walker wants us to present this same material at the November 21 meeting to get formal Commission backing for the preferred schemes (No. 4 and "A") before attempting to reach the President. He believes Fine Arts should speak out with firmness for the right design position. I suggested we should try to get NCPC with the "ball team" soon, since we have a big selling job to do anyway. Mr. Walker suggested bringing Mrs. Rowe and Mr. Robinson on the team also.

Mr. Perry has given much study to the remodeling of the "Civil War Centennial" building to meet the requirements of the Blair-Lee House group. A set of prints was given to us for our perusal. The intention is to set up a meeting for that group (Shinkwin, Protocal and White House) on our office on Monday, November 20 at 2:00 p.m. Perry would like to explain his plan.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 30, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE DAVID FINLEY

I will appreciate informally receiving your comments on the enclosed draft of a report prepared by Secretary Goldberg's office for the Cabinet Committee working on Federal office space problems.

The Secretary has also had prepared by an outside group of architects a possible plan for development of Pennsylvania Avenue as a major new Federal mall. His office will shortly be in touch with you concerning a convenient time in which you might get more fully informed on the suggestion that has been made for that development. I hope very much you will be able to attend and give the benefit of your judgment to the suggestion at the present informal stage of the Committee's work.

Fred Dutton

Frederick G. Dutton

EXHIBIT G

A REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL OFFICE SPACE CONCERNING THE ARCHITECTURAL POLICY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

In the course of its consideration of the general subject of federal office space, the Committee has given some thought to the need for an over-all architectural policy which will guide the government in the choice of design for federal buildings. The Committee takes it to be a matter of general understanding that the economy and suitability of federal office space derive directly from the architectural design. The belief that good design is optional, or in some way separate from the question of the provision of office space itself, does not bear scrutiny, and in fact invites the least efficient use of public money.

The design of federal office buildings, particularly those to be located in the nation's capital, must meet a two-fold requirement. First, it must provide efficient and economical facilities for the use of government agencies. Second, it must provide visual testimony to the dignity, enterprise, vigor, and stability of the American government.

EXHIBIT H

It should be our object to meet the test of Pericles' evocation of the Athenians, which the President commended to the Massachusetts legislature in his address of January 9, 1961: "We do not imitate. --but are a model to others."

This spirit, coming down to us from the very conception of the nation's capital as a place set apart and reserved for the high purposes of a free and democratic republic, and embedded in the earliest plans for the design of the city itself, has made Washington one of the most beautiful cities of the earth. It is a spirit that is still with us. Now, as in the past, it is a spirit emphatically opposed to any manner of ostentation, extravagance or monumentality on the part of the American government.

The Committee is also of the opinion that the federal government, no less than other public and private organizations concerned with the construction of new buildings, should take advantage of the increasingly fruitful collaboration between architecture and the fine arts.

With these objects in view, the Committee wishes to propose a three point architectural policy for the federal government.

1. The policy shall be to provide requisite and adequate facilities in an architectural style and form which is distinguished and which will reflect the dignity, enterprise, vigor, and stability of the American government. Major emphasis should be placed on the choice of designs which embody the finest contemporary American architectural thought. Specific attention should be paid to ~~the possibilities of~~ incorporating into such designs qualities which are consonant with the climate and other characteristics of that part of the nation in which buildings are located. Designs shall adhere to established construction practice and utilize materials, methods and equipment of proven dependability. Buildings shall be economical to build, operate and maintain.

2. Care must be taken to avoid the development of an official style. Design must flow from the architectual profession to the government, and not vice versa. Competitions for the design of federal buildings should be encouraged to the point that it would be unusual for a building of major importance to be constructed except on this basis.

3. A modest portion of the cost of each new federal office building, not to exceed one percent of the total expense, shall be allocated for the purchase of fine arts to be incorporated in the general design. Emphasis should be placed on the work of living American artists, representing all trends of contemporary art, but this practice should not preclude the purchase of works of earlier periods where this would be appropriate. In connection with the work of living artists, competitions should be encouraged.

Comments of the Members of the Commission of Fine Arts on a draft "Report to the President on Federal Office Space."

It is important that buildings erected for the Federal Government should indicate clearly that they are government buildings and not commercial buildings. They should, in all cases, be provided with adequate sites. They should be well and solidly built of permanent materials, and the design should achieve a monumental quality.

The present policy is to crowd too many human beings into too few cubic feet of space. Such buildings do not suggest a permanent government structure but rather a commercial building.

A building should not be designed by two or more architectural firms as is done at present. Each building should be assigned to one firm which should be responsible for the design.

Experience has shown that the best results are usually not obtained by a general competition in selecting the architect. Distinguished architects generally do not enter such competitions and the resulting design selected by the jury is often not acceptable, and not susceptible to improvement by critical assistance.

Time and study are required for the location and siting. Such study should take into consideration the concentration of population, as well as the required services including transport facilities.

Special care should be taken of the general ensemble of streets and public places. Buildings should be located so that a generous development of landscape may be assured.

EXHIBIT I

28 November 1961

Dear Mr. Dutton:

I am enclosing comments of the members of the Commission of Fine Arts on the draft of "a report to the President by the Ad Hoc Committee on Federal Office Space concerning the Architectural Policy of the Federal Government."

The members felt that the text of the report might well be shortened, and they have indicated the main points that, in their opinion, should be stressed.

The members would be very glad to see the plans for Pennsylvania Avenue included in your memorandum. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on December 19th and 20th.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Frederick G. Dutton
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT J

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 17, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE DAVID FINLEY

The White House has been alerted to the fact that the proposed E Street Expressway is the first major highway project to thrust directly through Washington and will likely be construed as setting a precedent for future such projects. Concern has also been expressed that the proposed route of the expressway will be immediately adjacent to one side of the State Department building.

Because of both these factors, I would appreciate receiving a report from you on the Commission's consideration of this project. I understand that the subject is to be considered Wednesday, October 18.

Enclosed is material which has been forwarded concerning the project.

Frederick G. Dutton

EXHIBIT E

19 October 1961

Dear Mr. Dutton:

I have just received your memorandum of October 17th which arrived, unfortunately, too late to be read at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts yesterday.

At that meeting, the members of the Commission were shown the design of the E Street Expressway from 23rd Street to 20th Street, Northwest, as presented by Mrs. Chloethiel Smith, architect, who has been retained by the District of Columbia Highway Department to prepare the architectural and landscape treatment of the E Street Expressway and the proposed park between 19th and 23rd Streets.

While the Commission expressed appreciation of Mrs. Smith's imaginative treatment of the project, they did not endorse the plan because we hoped it might be possible to put the freeway under ground, thus preserving the area as a park as originally advocated by the Commission of Fine Arts. We feel also that, as noted in your memorandum, the proposed expressway, as approved by the District of Columbia Highway Department, would set a precedent for such projects and would not only be destructive of the E Street Mall but would direct too great a volume of traffic past the White House. I enclose copy of the letter which I have sent to Brig. Gen. F.J.Clarke, Engineer Commissioner for the District of Columbia, stating the position of the Commission of Fine Arts in this matter.

We hope The White House and the Secretary of State will ask the District of Columbia Commissioners to consider putting the expressway underground from 23rd Street to 20th Street, thus preserving the entire area as a Mall which it was hoped would be a projection of Rawlins Park.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Frederick G. Dutton
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

LFW

EXHIBIT L

1 December 1961

Dear Mrs. Rowe:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on November 20, 1961, gave further consideration to the proposed real-estate development of lands between New Hampshire Avenue, Virginia Avenue and the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, Northwest.

The Commission considers that the importance of this land as open space should be the overriding consideration in any plans for its future use. Its situation near Rock Creek Park, overlooking the Potomac River, Roosevelt Island, and Old Georgetown, is unique. Furthermore, lands adjoining this property to the south, that had long been planned as a park, will largely be destroyed by the intrusion of highways, thus giving added import to the significance of this area.

It is the Commission's understanding that land comprising "H" Street extended is currently held by the National Capital Parks Department of the National Park Service. The Commission would, therefore, recommend that this land not only be retained in public ownership, but that every effort be made to acquire the remaining parcel of land that comprises this last major open space located in this part of the city.

The Commission of Fine Arts believes that the acquisition of this site would not only be a major contribution to the park system, considering the excellent qualities of the site itself, but would represent, in part, some measure of compensation for the loss of parklands for other uses throughout the rest of the city.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mrs. James H. Rowe, jr.
Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

EXHIBIT M

24 October 1961

Gentlemen:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting of October 19, 1961, considered the proposal now before the Zoning Commission to extend the C-4 District to include lots 18, 811, 810, 809, 808, the C-3-B portion of lot 821, Square 224, lot 30, Square 225, and the south fifty feet of lots 810 and 29 and Square 221. This property is located on the east side of 15th Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to G Street, N.W., the northwest corner of 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue, and the premises at 1505 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. More particularly, these properties are immediately across from the Treasury Building and adjacent to the Treasury Annex. Inasmuch as these properties are already zoned for commercial use the only apparent reasons for changing the zoning is to permit an increase in height in future buildings and a greater density of occupancy.

The Commission recommends that the proposed zoning change not be made.

In the past all planning for the development of the city of Washington has been based upon the general principle that the height of private, commercial buildings shall be subordinated to the major symbols of the national government, such as the Capitol, and that buildings facing important government and park areas should be controlled so as to prevent visual dominance by private development over these areas and structures.

Beginning with the L'Enfant Plan in 1791 all plans for the development of the city have envisioned the area around the White House, the Treasury Building, the Old State, War and Navy Building, and Lafayette Square as the President's Park, the Executive Branch's counterpart of Capitol Hill. In May 1932 the Board of Commissioners adopted a schedule of heights of buildings adjacent to public buildings which was recommended by the Commission of Fine Arts. This schedule provided that no building adjacent to the Treasury Building on either 15th Street or Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. should exceed 80 feet in height, later amended to 90 feet.

The Commission believes that changing the zoning of this land to permit commercial buildings 110 feet in height adjacent to the Treasury Building would be a direct violation of these plans and principles. We do not believe that private construction should be permitted to overshadow the Treasury buildings and the White House thereby diminishing their architectural importance and detracting from their proper setting.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia

EXHIBIT N

David E. Finley

1 December 1961

Dear Mr. Wirth:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on 21 November 1961, gave further consideration to the list of projects proposed in the Fiscal Year 1963 Budget of National Capital Parks. The projects had been previously reviewed by the Chairman and members of the Staff in a meeting with representatives of the National Capital Parks on the 17th of November.

The Commission approved the list of projects for the Fiscal Year 1963 Budget as presented, and will look forward to seeing the designs when they have been prepared.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Conrad L. Wirth
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

EXHIBIT N'

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

OCT 24 1951

Mr. David E. Finley
Chairman, The Commission of
Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley:

Thank you for your letter of October 3 recommending that the Dr. Benjamin Rush statue be relocated in the public park at 18th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.

We know you are aware that Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, has urged that this statue be placed on their Rush Campus. Dr. Rush was a founder of the College. In his letter to me of July 27, President Howard L. Rubendall of Dickinson College said: "It (the Rush statue) would be an object of special respect in most seemly surroundings and would receive care in perpetuity not likely elsewhere." We believe that loaning the Dr. Rush statue to Dickinson College where it may be associated directly with one of Rush's great achievements and contributions to the Nation will give the monument added significance and attention.

The Secretary of the Interior has written to the Secretary of the Navy about Dickinson College's keen interest in the Dr. Rush statue. It was proposed by the Secretary that custody of the statue be transferred from the Navy to this Service for reassignment to the College, with the understanding that the statue would be subject to recall at the Navy's discretion.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to Dr. Roy T. Lester, in the office of the Medical Liaison Representative for the American Medical Association. It seems appropriate for him and his association to know the views of the National Park Service in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

E. T. Scoyen
Acting Director

EXHIBIT O

)NALD DeLUE *Sculptor*

225 EAST 67TH STREET - NEW YORK 21, N. Y

November 17, 1961

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman
The Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Finley,

I had a call from Mr. Paul Jennewein, President of the National Sculpture Society, informing me that the question of moving the Benjamin Rush statue from Washington to Dickinson College is coming up before the Fine Arts Commission at its next meeting.

I cannot help but feel that the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Stuart Udall, is most misguided in the program of moving statues out of Washington on a loan basis. There is no such thing as a loan of statues, as the cost is too great. If a community takes one of the Washington statues and sets it up, there is all the cost of new foundations, a new pedestal setting and transportation. With such costs involved, it is very unlikely the statue will be returned to Washington where it was originally placed by Act of Congress.

The removal of the status is, to my mind, a breach of faith with those who erected the statue. If there was reason at one time for the status in Washington, it would seem to me that a later generation does not have a moral right to remove a statue.

The case of Dr. Rush is specific. A great Doctor of the American Revolution, a statue of him was placed in the Capitol City of the country which he helped to create, so that his name and memory would be honored by those of later generations. It is American history; it belongs to the American people. I cannot help but feel that those who love this country and are aware of American history, would resent the moving of the Rush statue anywhere outside of our Capitol City.

It is my belief that the removal of such a statue is an act of vandalism instigated by the Federal Government. If there is any act the Commission can take in defense of Washington statues, I feel sure that there is a large segment of the knowing American public that will be eternally grateful as it will also help in preserving our American heritage.

Very sincerely yours,

Donald DeLue

Donald DeLue

DD/cm

EXHIBIT P

Remarks by Mr. Paul Manship at the Meeting of the
Commission of Fine Arts, 21 November 1963, 1961
Reference Statue of Benjamin Rush

The National Sculpture Society, of which I am past-president, asked me to come here because they are very interested in the preservation of the monuments which are in Washington, which adorn Washington.

They believe, I think, with you that it is a very important thing that this precedent should not be set for the removal of our national monuments, and that is the point that we wish to make, that there is obviously a place in Washington for many memorials, many monuments, and we hope, of course, that the quality will be fine and that they will be also in recognition of the high merits of the individuals involved, or memorialized.

But Dr. Rush was a famous surgeon, and a great man, a patriot, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

We believe his monument, which in itself is a very fineone, Washington should not lose it and the National Sculpture Society and I am happy to say the sculptors whom I represent, are unanimous in the feeling that this precedent should not be set.

EXHIBIT C

Remarks by Mr. John Harbeson at the Meeting of the
Commission of Fine Arts, 21 November ~~1963~~, 1961
Reference Statue of Benjamin Rush

The Council of the Academy of Design has considered this matter and the whole matter of replacing of statues in Washington, and the displacing of statues in Washington, and directed that letter be sent to the Secretary of the Interior protesting against the removal of any statue except on the recommendation of the National Fine Arts Commission and asked him to consult the National Fine Arts Commission on all these matters.

That is the particular point it wishes to make, that these t
hings should not be done but at the suggestion of politicians or interested laymen or other citizens, but only on the recommendations of the National Fine Arts Commission which is a body set up for that purpose.

EXHIBIT R

21 November 1961

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting today, gave further consideration to the relocation of the bronze statue of Dr. Benjamin Rush, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, which is to be moved from its present site at the Old Naval Observatory to permit the widening of E Street, Northwest.

I read to the members a letter which had been received from Mr. E. T. Scoyen, Acting Director of the National Park Service, saying that it was the belief of the Park Service that the statue should be sent on loan to Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and that you had asked the Secretary of the Navy to transfer the custody of the statue to the Park Service for reassignment to Dickinson College, with the understanding that the statue would be subject to recall at the Navy's discretion.

Mr. John Harbeson of Philadelphia, architect and president of the National Academy of Design, and Mr. Paul Manship of New York, sculptor and former president of the National Sculpture Society, were also present and protested, on behalf of the artists represented, against the removal of monuments from Washington. A letter from Mr. Donald DeLue of New York, sculptor and former president of the National Sculpture Society, making a similar protest, was read. A copy of the letter is attached hereto.

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts expressed strong disapproval of the removal from Washington of memorials erected here to our great men. The statue of Dr. Rush was given to the American people to be erected in Washington, and was accepted by President Theodore Roosevelt. This city has many small triangular parks along its avenues which offer excellent sites for small monuments such as that of Dr. Rush. These monuments not only add to the beauty and interest of the Nation's Capital, but encourage patriotism in residents and visitors who come here.

The Commission of Fine Arts has recommended that the statue of Dr. Rush be re-erected in the park at 18th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest. It would seem in order for Dickinson College to commission a sculptor to make a statue of Dr. Rush if they care to do so. A valuable

EXHIBIT 5

work of art, which is the property of the American people, obviously cannot be given away. To send a large bronze statue with a stone base away from Washington on loan would nevertheless accomplish this purpose, as there would seem to be no reason to expect that such a statue would be returned. The policy, which the National Park Service has proposed in the case of the Rush statue, follows the procedure established in the case of the Bryan statue sent on loan to Salem, Illinois.

The members hope that you will advise us whether Mr. Scoyen's letter has your approval and also whether it is the policy of the Department of the Interior to continue to send monuments and memorials away from Washington.

I know of your interest in art and in the development of Washington as the Nation's Capital. I hope you will agree with the Commission of Fine Arts as to the importance of keeping in Washington its cultural assets such as monuments and memorials.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E Finley
Chairman

The Honorable Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 10/17/61

NOV 13 1961

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
2447	1767-73-77-83-87 Harvard St., NW Julius Goldstein et. al. (Lola Condo)	Five 4-story Garden apts. Brick & cinder-block.

ACTION: Disap'd. Disordered and crowded grouping of buildings displays no consideration for this important site, which overlooks the National Zoological Gardens and Parkway. Treatment of individual buildings is commonplace, following monotonous pattern of speculative or emergency housing. Suggest restudy to achieve a more ordered grouping and landscaping, with more thoughtful architectural expression. Roof plan and treatment of cooling tower should be supplied, 11/6/61.

2448	1523-22nd St., NW Marifex Hotel	Replace exist. wooden entr. with aluminum doors & frames.

ACTION: App'd. for alternate scheme showing 2 doors symmetrically arranged in entranceway, 11/6/61.

2450	625 Penna. Ave., NW The Round-Up Restaurant	1 canvas awning above entr. & showwindows; Terrace red; suspended from bldg. with fixed iron frames.

ACTION: Disap'd; recom. substitution of gear-roller type awning; color of covering canvas satisfactory per sample submitted, 11/6/61.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 11/13/61 — 11/21/61

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
2449	1001 Penna. Ave., NW Waffle Shop	1 red, white, & black canvas awning above entr. (Photos indicate above entr. & showwindows.) Suspended from bldg. Fixed iron frames & fixed iron posts.

ACTION: App'd. provided; (1) design of awning & structure is restricted to that shown on drawing, omitting any future additional side curtains, planting boxes, or other enclosing elements, which tend to detract from the appearance; (2) also, that covering material of awning is restricted to a single, solid-color fabric, 11/21/61.

2451	1523-22nd St., NW Marifex Hotel	1 canvas canopy from doorway to 1'-6" from curb. Suspended from bldg. Fixed iron frames & posts.

ACTION: App'd., provided that marquee structure is terminated in a flat, vertical plane extending no further than the steps at the sidewalk line, 11/16/61.

2452	2224 F St., NW Allen Lee Hotel	Interior alterations. Install 2 new windows in areaway. These windows not visible from street.

ACTION: App'd., 11/16/61.

2453	4821 Colorado Ave., NW Embassy of Sierra Leone	Rev. to SL 2436. 1-story addn. on right side of exist. structure, also remove window & erect a door, remove brick wall & erect a beam, & Angle Iron.

ACTION: App'd., provided that front facade of new "study" wing is set back 12" from adjoining wall, or approx. the thickness of adjoining stone facing. New brick to match exist., 11/21/61.

2454	1203 Penna. Ave., NW 1203 Restaurant	1 black & white canvas awning from face of bldg. to point 18" back of curb. Suspended from bldg. Fixed iron frames & fixed iron posts.

ACTION: Disap'd; the proposed marquee, extending across sidewalk to a distance of 18" from the curbline, would detract from the appearance & dignity of this important ceremonial Ave., 11/21/61.

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
2455	503-13th St., NW Neptune Restaurant (Warner Bldg.)	Rev. of SL 2413. Remodel front.

ACTION: Disap'd; recom. restudy more closely following the scheme submitted under appl. SL 2413, dtd. 7/20/61. In addn. to design features indicated in the former subm., trim around door & display windows should be restricted to use around the openings themselves, & head of small display window should be slightly lower than head of door & adjoining display window, 11/21/61.

2456	1840 Primrose Rd., NW Duane Gooselaw	New 1-story dwelling, of brick, stone & stained wood.

ACTION: App'd., 11/16/61.

2457	3119 Adams Mill Rd., NW Vilgilio Bellayalza	Encl. rear screened porches with jalousies. No change in structure.

ACTION: App'd., 11/16/61.

2458	411-2nd St., NE Capital Properties, Inc. (Off. bldg.)	Rev. to SL 2439. 3-story masonry office bldg.

ACTION: App'd., provided windows on right side elevation between column lines 4 & 5 are eliminated on 2nd & 3rd flrs., & that windows between column lines 5 & 3 are eliminated on 1st fl. Also color of penthouse should be a medium value neutral color, such as grey or tan, 11/21/61.

2459	1415 Penna. Ave., NW Virginia Hotel Co. (Open parking garage)	1 triple-faced sign. 27 sq-ft. Black ltrs. on white bckgd.

ACTION: Disap'd; recom. sign with single-faced back-lighted free-standing opaque ltrs. Also recom. restricting red & green entr. & exit lights to a non-flashing type, if they should be required at all, 11/21/61.

2460	4869 Colorado Ave., NW Dr & Mrs Mitchell Spellman	Rev. to SL 2444. Remodel exist. house, & 1-story addn. 2 alternate schemes.

ACTION: App'd. according to revised design shown on drawings dtd. 11/21/61, 11/21/61.

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
2461	1711 Kalmia Rd., NW Dr & Mrs Chas. Bland	Rev. to SL 2445. New 2-story detached dwelling.
ACTION:	App'd. for revised design shown on drawings dtd. 11/21/61, 11/21/61.	
2462	2500 Calvert St., NW Shoreham Hotel	Remove roof of Blue Rm; remove rear (so.) wall, extend bldg. to rear; constr. new roof with air shafts & cooling tower pit.
ACTION:	App'd., 11/21/61.	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 11/17/61 11/21/61

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
3022	3425 Prospect St., NW Clairborne Pell	Install fire escape on rear of bldg.

ACTION: Ret'd. See attached ltr. to Ch., Permit Branch, D. C. Dept. of L. & I., dtd. 11/15/61, 11/15/61.

3036	1226 Wisc. Ave., NW Byron Motion Pictures, Inc.	Rev. to OG 2901. 1 s-f 24 sq-ft sign. White bckgd., black letters. Plastic. Illuminated.

ACTION: Not recom'd. Recom. sign of back-lighted opaque metal ltrs. installed flat against bldg., omitting "film strip" insignia & capitalizing lst ltrs. of all words, 11/21/61.

3039	3530 Water St., NW Potomac Boat Club, Inc.	Erect Boat Shelter addn. to Boat Club.

ACTION: Recom'd. as revised per attached sheets, provided vertical dimension of lights in window is greater than horizontal dimension, 11/21/61.

3045	1310 Wisc. Ave., NW Georgetown Inn	Rev. to OG 2576. To substitute hand moulded brick for stone-work previously indicated on plans for lst fl. facade.

ACTION: Recom'd. for hand moulded brick as submitted for use on recessed lst-fl. facade, 11/14/61.

3046	1411-29th St., NW Ernest B. Dane, III	Remodel exist. 2-story frame dwelling, restoring front. Circulation completely revised.

ACTION: Not recom'd., suggest restudy of front elevation making following changes: (1) Substitute paneled door for flush-panel door at lst fl. entranceway; (2) Substitute bearing construction for cantilever of entranceway stoop & steps; (3) Provide lights with vertical dimension exceeding horizontal dimension in transom over door & in basement windows; (4) Provide railing with balusters more closely spaced, such as exist. railing, 11/21/61.

3047	3432 P St., NW Mrs Catherine M. Shelton	Replace part of exist. wood foundation with brick; replace exist. wood fl. with concrete; replace exist. wood railing with brick; replace exist. screening with glass.

ACTION: Recom'd., provided wood sash be substituted for aluminum sash, 11/14/61.

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
3048	3403 P St., NW Miss Elizabeth A. Burton	Repair front porch; build brick steps & install new 6 x 6 columns on front.

ACTION: Recom'd. for parts visible from public highway, 11/14/61.

3049	3021 P St., NW R. W. Bolling	Replace exist. concrete stoop with new brick stoop. No change in size. Erect brick garage.

ACTION: Recom'd., provided that window lights on west elevation of garage be divided so that vertical dimensions are greater than horizontal dimensions; also, that "roof structure" in areaway between exist. bldg. & property line be omitted, 11/14/61.

3050	3011 P St., NW Juliet H. Gill	Raze metal garage; erect 6'-6" split cedar fence.

ACTION: Recom'd., 11/14/61.

3051	1101-29th St., NW Wash. Gas Light Co.	Remove factory-type windows & install br. wall & alum. windows per drawing A-1. Br. to match exist. brick-work as nearly as possible.

ACTION: Recom'd. for parts visible from a public highway, according to revised fenestration for north elevation, per attached drawing, 11/21/61.

3052	1419-36th St., NW Janet Felton	Light at front entr.

ACTION: Recom'd., 11/14/61.

3053	1310-27th St., NW Mrs R. Spaotz	Light at front entrance.

ACTION: Not recom'd. Although general form of lamp is satisfactory, suggest design of a more simple & better executed detail. Also recom. constr. of a material which can be painted, preferably white, or light gray, 11/21/61.

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
3054	3233 N St., NW Odd Fellows Home Assn., Inc.	Raze 3rd fl. from exist. 3-story bldg. to conform with 1961 Bldg. Code for L-1 type bldg.

ACTION: Not recom'd., recom. retention of 3rd fl., effecting any changes to interior structure necessary to meet 1961 Bldg. Code, 11/21/61.

3057	3240 S St., NW Mr & Mrs John W. Warner	Constr. low stone ret. wall & steps; stone ret. wall south wall with wood facing fence with brick piers; brick ret. wall, & brick fence wall.

ACTION: Recom'd., 11/21/61.

3059	3425 Prospect St., NW Clairborne Pell	Fire escape for top floor. Rev. to OG 3022.

ACTION: Recom'd., provided structure is painted to match walls of house, 11/21/61.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 11/6/61

NOV 17 1961

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
3027	1616 Wisc. Ave., NW Banj. A. Goodale	Addn. to exist. bldg. & replace triple window, new partitions, rebuild fireplaces & chimney.
ACTION:	Ret'd; superseded by OG 3035, 11/3/61.	
3035	1616 Wisc. Ave., NW Benj. A. Goodale	Rev. to OG 3027. Addn. to exist. bldg; new entranceway; new showwindows; new steps to lst fl.
ACTION:	Recom'd., as revised, for all work visible from a public highway except treatment of 2 showcase structures at gateway. Restudies of this feature are to be resubmitted at a later date, 11/3/61.	
3037	3800 Reservoir Rd., NW Georgetown U.	New brick addn. to, and alterations to Animal Research Bldg.
ACTION:	Recom'd. for parts visible from public highway, 11/7/61.	
3038	3301 Prospect Ave., NW Thos. G. Hill	6'-4" high brick fence to replace exist. wood fence.
ACTION:	Recom'd., 11/7/61.	
3041	2903 Q St., NW Oliver Popenoe	Replace exist. iron steps & landing with brick.
ACTION:	Recom'd., 11/7/61.	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 11/6/61 (Continued) NOV 17 1961

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
3042	1629-33rd St., NW Mr J. Sells Wilson	Install 6-light transom instead of 3-light transom & two 6-light sash in basement instead of 3-light sash in order to match basement windows & transom of house at 1627-33rd St., NW.

ACTION: Not recom'd. Recom. instead 3-light sash in transom & basement window, as previously submitted in plans accompanying O. G. 2970, dated 8/14/61, 11/7/61.

3043	2913 M St., NW Al Wheeler (Rue Royale Restaurant)	1 canvas awning suspended from bldg. with fixed iron frames & posts.

ACTION: Not recom'd. The appearance of projecting, pipe-supported covered marquees is considered incompatible with the standards for design outlined in Public Law 808, 81st Congress, 11/7/61.

3044	M St. between Thos. Jeff. St. & Wisc. Ave., NW Georgetown Business & Professions Ass'n., Inc.	Christmas decorations at above site, incl. lights & banners from 1st week in Dec. to 1/1/62.

ACTION: Recom'd. for green, red, & white lights. Suggest that use of banners across street would reduce effectiveness of holiday decorations, 11/7/61.

3040	3263 M St., NW Jim's Carry-Out Restaurant	Rev. to OG 3026. Remodel front.

ACTION: Information on resubmission is still insufficient for an evaluation of the proposed work. Ret'd. for additional architectural details, incl. front elevation drawing showing proposed work in relation to the exist. bldg; also treatment of recessed doorway; & details of light sizes, muntins, & trim of window, 11/7/61.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON OLD GEORGETOWN ACT APPLICATIONS SINCE 10/17/61

NOV 6 1961

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
3021	2811 "O" St., NW Hugh Smith Cumming, Jr.	Install ornamental iron gates at basement entr.
ACTION:	Recom'd., 10/24/61.	
3023	1224-30th St., NW Gordon Gray	Relocate 12' high chain-link fence surrounding an exist. tennis court which is to be relocated.
ACTION:	Recom'd., provided fence is painted dark green, & that evergreens of sufficient height & density are planted along the western property line in order to screen the view as seen from the garden of the adjoining Nat'l. Park, 10/24/61.	
3024	3403 P St., NW Miss Elizabeth Burton	Remove old plaster stucco from front walls of 1st & 2nd flrs. & restucco on galvanized metal lath (3.4).
ACTION:	Recom'd., 10/24/61.	
3025	3139 M St., NW Smilow-Thielle Modern Furniture	1 lateral-arm gear roller awning over entr. & showwindow; brown vinyl coated canvas.
ACTION:	Recom'd; provided ltr'ing. be omitted from valance, which would exceed maximum allowable sign area on these premises, 10/24/61.	
3026	3263 M St., NW Jim's Carry Out Restaurant	Remodel front.
ACTION:	Ret'd. for add'l. inf. Request arch'l. sections, plans & elevations showing in detail the complete treatment of the proposed work, 10/24/61.	
3028	3306 R St., NW Abba Schwartz	Rev. to OG 2995. Amend permit #B-78768 to increase 20" brick fence on concrete ret. wall to 60".
ACTION:	Recom'd., 10/24/61.	

NO	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
3029	1517-30th St., NW Grace K. Legare & Walcott Waggaman	6' wood fence & shrubs.
ACTION:	Recom'd. Suggest fence be painted to match color of trim of apt. house, 10/24/61.	
3030	1425-33rd St., NW John A. Downes	Remove front porch, replace with brick steps. Similar in appearance to 1427-33rd St., NW.
ACTION:	Recom'd. for parts visible from public highway, 10/31/61.	
3031	3119 N St., NW J. C. Chatel	2 coach lights at front entr. 1 at basement entr. & 1 at 1st-fl entr.
ACTION:	Recom'd., 10/31/61.	
3032	3334 N St., NW Chisholm Beach	2 coach lights at front entr.
ACTION:	Recom'd., 10/31/61.	
3033	3284 N St., NW G. Eastburn	1 coach light at front entr.
ACTION:	Recom'd., 10/31/61.	
3034	1207-35th St., NW Glen L. Stalker	Rev. to OG 2897. Alterations.
ACTION:	Recom'd., provided stairway window on north elevation matches adjoining window, 10/31/61.	

15 November 1961

Mr. Julian P. Green
Chief, Permit Branch
D. C. Dept. of Licenses & Inspections
108 District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

Dear Mr. Green:

I am writing in regard to application O. G. 3022, dated 16 October 1961, in which permission is requested to attach an iron-frame fire escape structure from the third-floor level to the ground-floor level, on the exterior of the rear elevation, at premises located at 3425 Prospect Street, N. W.

This house is a particularly fine example of the type of architecture that is intended to be preserved under the Old Georgetown Act; and is a building having many historical associations with the early years of Washington. The occupants have included many persons of note since the house was built in 1798.

The members of the Commission can well understand the applicant's concern about the dangers of fire, and hope there will be no delay in providing protection against such an emergency. At the same time, they fear that an iron fire escape, such as is shown on the accompanying drawings, will detract from the appearance of this important building. They would not recommend against such a safety device where a real hazard exists and if no other structure should be practical. They hope that a careful architectural study can be made of the interior of the house and that some other means of providing emergency fire escape might be devised during such course of study. To this end the Board of Architectural Consultants for Georgetown, as well as members of the staff of the Commission, have indicated that they would be glad to help in any way that they can in arriving at a more satisfactory solution.

HA . 51 #32

Sincerely yours,

DAVID E. FINLEY
David E. Finley
Chairman

True Copy
of Signed
Original